

BURN TREATMENT - INTRODUCTION

1810

(No. 70 July 2008)

These guidelines are for the treatment and care of burned CAL FIRE employees and apply to all personnel acting under CAL FIRE direction. CAL FIRE employees will be treated according to CAL FIRE policy. These guidelines are based upon the burn center referral standard published by the *American Burn Association (ABA)* as recommended by the *Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons*. The following guidelines are also intended to mirror the *California Interagency Burn Care Management Protocol*, which has been designed and implemented in an attempt to standardize the burn treatment and transportation criteria of fire service personnel, regardless of agency, throughout California.

The leading cause of death in burn victims is infection of the burn wound. Wildland fire fighting has its own unique set of challenges. One of those is a lack of clean water. Obviously, using potable water to put out a fire that involves personnel is preferable to using chemically contaminated or brackish water. Unfortunately, putting the fire out in a wildland setting requires the use of readily available materials. This means that water from an open stream or pond may have to be used to stop the burning process.

NOTE: If the burned individual works for another agency, their representative(s) may provide treatment using their protocol. On incidents overseen by another agency, treatment and transportation procedures for CAL FIRE employees will be coordinated by the Incident Commander (IC) and the CAL FIRE Agency Representative on that incident. Local emergency medical service personnel must follow their local treatment protocols while treating and transporting injured CAL FIRE employees.

[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see HB Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)